GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:952
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2007
USE OF FERTILE LAND FOR SEZs
Appadurai Shri M.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area of agricultural fertile land being diverted for the construction of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government has assessed the impact of agricultural land acquisition for Special Economic Zones on the production of foodgrains;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (d): The total land area in the 362 valid formal approvals for setting up SEZs is about 48781 hectares. Of this, about 17800 hectares of land were already in the ownership/ possession of State Industrial Development Corporations which were acquired for industrial purposes by the State Governments much prior to the introduction of the SEZ policy. As little area has been consumed by the SEZs so for as compared to the total cultivable area of about 183 million hectares in the country, no systematic assessment about its impact on foodgrain production has been undertaken.